

## ON A REMARKABLE NEW OLIGOMYODIAN GENUS AND SPECIES FROM ECUADOR.

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### *Sapayoa* gen. nov. Pipridarum.

*Passeris domestici* magnitudine. Rostro lato, depresso, culmine carinato, apice adunco, vibrissis rictalibus fortibus. Naribus rotundatis. Corporis plumis copiosis, mollibus, in capite summo paullum elongatis, itaque pileo fere suberistato. Cauda aequali, paullum emarginata. Remige exteriori secundariarum longitudine, quarta longissima. Pedibus parvis, invalidis, metatarsis ocreatis, dimidio summo plumatis. Digitis metatarsi fere longitudine, basi syndactilis.

Typus generis species unica cognita:

### *Sapayoa aenigma* sp. nov.

♀ ad. Olivaceo-viridis, fere unicolor, subtus lactior, flavescenior. Remigibus fuscis, pogoniis externis supra olivaceo-viridi, internis pallide virescenti-luteo marginatis. Rectricibus fuscis, supra olivaceo-viridi marginatis. Subalaribus tibiisque olivaceo-viridibus. Long. tot. circa 150, al. 85, caud. 60, metatars. 16, dig. med. cum ungue 14, hall. 11, culm. a basi 17, rostri lat. ad basin 11 mm.

*Hab.* In Ecuatoria occidentali septentrionali, ad flumen Sapayoa dictum.

This remarkable new genus, for which I propose the name *Sapayoa*, is difficult to place in the system. After a careful comparison, however, I have come to the conclusion, that it is best placed among the *Pipridae*, not far from the genus *Scotothorus* (*Heteropelma*, *Cat. B.* xiv. p. 318), and my friend Count Berlepsch, to whom I sent the bird before describing it, is of the same opinion. In the uniform coloration and general structure of plumage this bird agrees most with *Scotothorus*, but the very weak and small feet remind one of *Neopelma*. The metatarsus may be called ocreate, the scales being so fused as to show hardly any divisions. About the upper half of the metatarsus is feathered, a very strange character among the *Pipridae*, though we find it among the *Cotingidae* in a somewhat different way in *Phoenicocercus*. The toes are connected at their base, the outer and middle toe for quite half their length. The hallux is large and free. The claws are strong, the under surface of the toes is rough, being covered with separate small roundish scutes, as in *Scotothorus*. This suggests most surely essentially arboreal habits. Wings and tail much as in *Scotothorus*. In the wing the first functional primary is of the length of the secondaries, the fourth is the longest, the third and fifth are nearly equal. The longest secondaries are 14 mm. shorter than the longest primary. The tail may be called square, though the central pair is really 3 mm. shorter than the lateral ones.

The bill is most extraordinary, differing from the bills of all known *Pipridae*

and *Cotingidae*. Though laterally seen, it looks somewhat like the bill of *Scotothorus*, on account of the well developed ridge on the culmen, its great width and strong rictal bristles make it resemble the bills of certain *Tyrannidae*. The nostrils appear to be quite round. The feathers of the lores are directed forward, and the feathers of the crown are somewhat elongated, suggesting a slight crest. The plumage generally is rich, soft, and loose. The distal halves of the outer webs of the outer primaries have the tips of the barbs slightly recurved or hooked, but not stiffened.

The single specimen, marked ♀, is above uniform olive-green. The quills are blackish brown, outer webs margined with olive-green above, inner webs margined with pale greenish buff towards the base. Tail blackish brown, widely margined with the colour of the back. Underside olive-green, but much lighter and more yellowish than the upper surface. The bases of all the feathers are light grey. These bases are more extended and show through on the sides of the body, but this may be partially due to the somewhat abraded tips. Thighs and under wing-coverts olive-green.

A single example, No. 141, marked ♀, evidently fully adult, was obtained on the Rio Sapayo in N.W. Ecuador, November 2nd, 1901, by Mr. Miketta, one of Mr. F. W. H. Rosenberg's correspondents in South America, who has discovered several other fine novelties in Ecuador. The iris is said to be reddish brown, feet grey, bill black, grey underneath. The total length is about 150, wing 85, tail 60, metatarsus 16, the middle toe 14, hind toe 11, the culmen from base 17, from end of feathering about 12, nostrils to tip 10, width at base 11 mm.

On the label the collector states, that the bird had two eggs, but unfortunately they were not sent.

Whether the *male* will be of the same colour as the *female* is of course impossible to say.

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